

Men to be NFL cheerleaders for first time ever

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Image: <https://twitter.com/LARamsCheer>

Fans of the USA's National Football League (NFL) will soon be in for a surprise. For the first time ever, an NFL team will have male cheerleaders in its ranks. The Los Angeles Rams have recruited two men as part of its official spirit squad (the term often given to the cheerleader team). Quinton Peron and Napoleon Jinnies will be the first men in NFL history to perform the same dance routines alongside their female counterparts. Other NFL teams have men who perform stunts, but they do not dance. Quinton and Napoleon are both classically trained dancers with years of performing experience. They were selected after impressing judges in a rigorous three-week-long process of auditions and interviews.

The current captain of the LA Rams cheerleader squad, Emily Leibert, enthused about her new colleagues in an interview on the TV show Good Morning America. She said: "They really just fit the bill to be a Los Angeles Rams cheerleader. They are intelligent; they are eloquent; they are more than qualified to be ambassadors out in the community." Leibert added: "They bring so much energy and there's something so magnetic about their performance that you really can't take your eyes off them." Napoleon was equally enthusiastic about joining the Rams. He praised the team for welcoming inclusivity and said he was "humbled" by his new role. He said he wanted to prove that "boys can dance too".

Sources: usatoday.com / abcnews.go.com / yahoo.com

Writing

All sports teams need cheerleaders and male cheerleaders. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

surprise / first time / cheerleader / spirit / history / dance routines / stunts / interview / captain / colleagues / intelligent / eloquent / magnetic / performance / inclusivity

True / False

- NFL fans will not be in for a surprise regarding male cheerleaders. T / F
- The LA Rams have recruited two male cheerleaders. T / F
- The new LA Rams cheerleaders will have to perform stunts. T / F
- The process of auditions was three days long. T / F
- The cheerleading captain was not happy about men joining her team. T / F
- The captain said on TV that the men really fit the bill. T / F
- The captain said the men were qualified to be community ambassadors. T / F
- One of the men said he felt humbled by becoming a cheerleader. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. fans | a. representatives |
| 2. recruited | b. procedure |
| 3. perform | c. chosen |
| 4. selected | d. demonstrate |
| 5. process | e. raved |
| 6. enthused | f. supporters |
| 7. eloquent | g. attractive |
| 8. ambassadors | h. articulate |
| 9. magnetic | i. enlisted |
| 10. prove | j. carry out |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of the NFL?
- What do you think of cheerleaders?
- What was the last surprise you had?
- Why have there not been male cheerleaders before?
- What do cheerleaders add to sporting events?
- Do we need cheerleaders in other areas of life?
- What is the life of a dancer like?
- What do you think of American sports?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

1. have male cheerleaders
 2. alongside their female
 3. both classically
 4. a rigorous three-week-long
 5. auditions and
 6. enthused
 7. They really just fit
 8. they are more than qualified
 9. there's something so magnetic about
 10. He praised the team for
- a. trained dancers
 - b. welcoming inclusivity
 - c. interviews
 - d. about her new colleagues
 - e. their performance
 - f. in its ranks
 - g. to be ambassadors
 - h. counterparts
 - i. process
 - j. the bill

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about the work of a cheerleader?
- c) Are cheerleaders important?
- d) Do you fit the bill in your job?
- e) What do you bring a lot of energy to?
- f) How successful do you think the two men will be?
- g) Would you be a good cheerleader?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the male cheerleaders?

Spelling

1. cedreirt two men
2. part of its official spirit ugds
3. alongside their female rpouatnretsc
4. llasyacsilc trained dancers
5. a oruigosr three-week-long process
6. aotdunsii and interviews
7. sehduetn about her new colleagues
8. they are eotequln
9. qualified to be odassbamras
10. something so gmaintce
11. He praised the team for welcoming ciilusitvny
12. he was "delumhb" by his new role

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. j	4. c	5. b
6. e	7. h	8. a	9. g	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Entertaining the Public

You think entertaining the public would be the best thing about being a cheerleader. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): dancing, the uniform or the glamor.

Role B – Dancing

You think dancing would be the best thing about being a cheerleader. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): entertaining the public, the uniform or the glamor.

Role C – The Uniform

You think the uniform would be the best thing about being a cheerleader. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): dancing, entertaining the public or the glamor.

Role D – The Glamor

You think the glamor would be the best thing about being a cheerleader. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): dancing, the uniform or entertaining the public.

Speaking – Cheerleading

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about cheerleading at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- colleagues
- staying fit
- the glamor
- the competition
- entertaining the public
- the dance routines
- the football games
- the uniforms

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.